

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 PA-02 /019 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:RWEISS:SM

APPROVED BY S/PRS - MR. JOHN TRATTNER

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P 291736Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 103296 TOSEC 110343

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS REPORTAGE, MORNING, THURSDAY,
APRIL 29, 1976

NO. 28

NEWSPAPERS:

(1) WASHPOST (MARDER) -- NOTHING IN APRIL 29 EDITION.
WASHPOST RAN REUTER'S ACCOUNT OF ZAIRE NEWS CONFERENCE.

(2) NYTIMES (KAUFMAN) -- NOTHING IN APRIL 29 EDITION.
NYTIMES RAN REUTER'S ACCOUNT OF ZAIRE NEWS CONFERENCE.

(3) LATIMES -- HAS NOT COME IN YET. WILL SEND IN AFTER-
NOON CABLE.

WIRES:

(1) REUTER (NELSON) -- THE U.S. IS OFFERING TO NEGOTIATE
THE DEMISE OF WHITE-CONTROLLED RHODESIA AS LONG AS THE RIGHTS
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OF THE WHITE MINORITY ARE PROTECTED. . . THE U.S. OFFER
WAS MADE BY KISSINGER AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN ZAIRE. . .
BUT KISSINGER CONCEDED HE WOULD NOT KNOW WHAT ROLE THE U.S.
COULD PLAY UNTIL SOUTH AFRICA AND THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT

RESPONDED TO HIS SPEECH IN LUSAKA. . . BUT KISSINGER SAID IT WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER HE WOULD BE THE MAN TO MEDIATE IN RHODESIA EVEN IF THE U.S. WAS ASKED TO INTERVENE. . . KISSINGER'S OFFER REPRESENTS A KIND OF IRONY IN VIEW OF HIS PAST SERVICES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE HAS ALWAYS INSISTED THE U.S. WOULD NOT DEAL WITH THE PLO BECAUSE HE COULD NOT CONDUCT A NEGOTIATION WITH THE PLO AS LONG AS IT WAS DEDICATED TO THE EXTINCTION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. IN THE CASE OF RHODESIA, HOWEVER, THE NEGOTIATION WOULD BE AIMED AT THE EXTINCTION OF THE STATE AS IT IS CONSTITUTED TODAY. U.S. OFFICIALS APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT THAT EXTINCTION IS INEVITABLE AND DR. KISSINGER SEEMS TO REGARD HIS OFFER TO ASSIST IN THAT PROCESS AS A WAY OF SAVING LIVES. THE COMBAT WILL HAVE TO BE ENDED BY NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID, "THE MORE RAPIDLY THAT TAKES PLACE, THE MORE LIVES WILL BE SAVED."

(LATE MORNING REUTER ITEM BY NELSON) -- FOR ONE OF THE RARE OCCASIONS IN SEVEN YEARS OF FLYING DIPLOMACY, KISSINGER HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY DESCRIBED AS ILL. HE HAS GASTRO-ENTERITIS. . . THE MORNING SCHEDULE HAS BEEN CANCELLED TO ENABLE HIM TO REST IN BED. . . THE ENERGETIC KISSINGER LOOKED PALE AND DRAWN AT A NEWS CONFERENCE LAST NIGHT WHEN HE DISCLOSED THAT THE U.S. IS OFFERING TO NEGOTIATE THE DEMISE OF WHITE-CONTROLLED RHODESIA. . . AFTER THE CONFERENCE DR. KISSINGER STAYED UP UNTIL MIDNIGHT FOR A DINNER OF SPICY BEEF AND CHICKEN DISHES AND THREE HOURS OF NATIVE DANCING.

(2) AP (SCHWEID) -- SECRETARY KISSINGER, WHO DINED WEDNESDAY ON SUCH DELICACIES AS WILD BOAR AND LEAVES OF MANIOC PLANTS, WOKE UP WITH A STOMACH ACHE TODAY, FORCING CANCELLATION OF THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES IN ZAIRE. IN ADDITION TO EATING EXOTIC CUISINE, KISSINGER ALSO TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL HELP NEGOTIATE THE TRANSITION TO BLACK RULE IN RHODESIA IF IT IS ASKED TO DO SO. ALTHOUGH HIS OFFER STIRRED MEMORIES OF UNCLASSIFIED

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HIS SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB FOES, HE SAID: "I HAVE NO IMMEDIATE PLAN TO RETURN TO BLACK AFRICA NOR AM I SAYING I WOULD BE THE PARTY" WHO WOULD DO THE NEGOTIATING. . . IN HIS WEDNESDAY NEWS CONFERENCE, KISSINGER AGAIN WARNED THE SOVIET UNION AGAINST DIRECT INTERFERENCE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR BLACK LIBERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. "IF ONE COUNTRY TRIES TO ESTABLISH ITS HEGEMONY, THEN THE OTHER NATIONS WILL BE FORCED TO RESPOND," HE SAID. "WE HOPE FOR THE SAKE OF AFRICA THIS CAN BE AVOIDED."

(3) UPI -- NOTHING THIS MORNING.

RADIO/TELEVISION:

(1) CBS RADIO (WTOP) -- JIM BOHANNON: SECRETARY HENRY KISSINGER'S NEW AFRICAN POLICY IS WINNING THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS. THE LATEST ONE TO BE WON OVER IS THE PRESIDENT OF ZAIRE, WHOM KISSINGER IS NOW VISITING. . . BERNARD KALB HAS MORE ON WHAT DR. KISSINGER IS TELLING THE AFRICANS WHICH HAS THEM SO PLEASED.

KALB: KISSINGER DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES HELPING TO RESOLVE THE DEVELOPING CRISIS IN RHODESIA BETWEEN THE WHITE MINORITY GOVERNMENT AND BLACK NATIONALISTS. BUT ONLY IF IT WAS REQUESTED BY BOTH SIDES. THE QUESTION CAME UP DURING A NEWS CONFERENCE HERE IN KINSHASA -- THE SECRETARY BEING ASKED WHETHER THE U.S. COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN TRYING TO MEDIATE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: "IN PRINCIPLE, THE U.S. IS WILLING TO ASSIST THE PARTIES, INsofar AS THEY REQUEST IT, TO BRING ABOUT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE LUSAKA SPEECH; THAT IS TO SAY, A RAPID ACHIEVEMENT OF MAJORITY RULE, A GUARANTEE OF MINORITY RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AND IF THE PARTIES ASK US TO BE HELPFUL, WE WILL CERTAINLY TAKE THAT VERY SERIOUSLY."

(2) NOTHING ELSE FROM THE OTHER TWO NETS ON EITHER RADIO OR TELEVISION THIS MORNING FROM THE TRAVELLING PRESS.

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LATE NEWSPAPER ITEM:

FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF ETHEL PAYNE'S ARTICLE IN APRIL 24 CHICAGO DAILY DEFENDER:

"HENRY KISSINGER FLEW OFF TO AFRICA THIS MORNING TO DO A BIT OF FENCE MENDING IN AN AREA WHICH HE ADMITS HE HAS TOO LONG NEGLECTED. HE WILL NEED ALL HIS MAGIC CHARM TO CONVINCE HIS SKEPTICAL HOSTS THAT HE WASN'T INTENTIONALLY IGNORING THEM -- HE WAS JUST BUSY TRYING TO PUT OUT FIRES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND HOLDING UP DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA.

"IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET BIOGNY, AN OLD FRIEND OF THE U.S., WAS SO MIFFED BY THE LACK OF AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR A VITAL PALM OIL DEVELOPMENT IN HIS COUNTRY THAT HE INFORMED THE SECRETARY'S AIDES IN HIS POLITIST FRENCH THAT HE WOULDN'T BE AVAILABLE TO MEET THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS FOREIGN MINISTER. KISSINGER BADLY WANTED TO STOP IN NIGERIA BECAUSE OF THAT COUNTRY'S GROWING IMPORTANCE IN THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES, BUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS SO VOLATILE THERE AFTER THE LATEST

MILITARY COUP THAT IT WAS DEEMED NOT SAFE FOR HIM TO GO.

"HOWEVER, ZAIRE'S MOBUTU SESE SEKO IS EAGERLY WAITING HIS ARRIVAL AND MAY EVEN TALK HIM INTO TAKING A CRUISE DOWN THE CONGO RIVER. THIS IS THE SECRETARY'S FIRST VISIT TO AFRICA. HE WILL BE THE SECOND SECRETARY OF STATE TO COME IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY. THE FIRST WAS WILLIAM P. ROGERS WHO MADE THE TOUR IN 1970.

"THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT HENRY WOULD VISIT THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA. IN FACT, SOME MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS URGED HIM TO GO, THINKING THIS MIGHT BE SOME ADDED LEVERAGE IN FORCING THAT COUNTRY TO RELAX ITS IRON GRIP ON THE DREADED APARTHEID SYSTEM. KISSINGER TURNED DOWN THE IDEA FOR FEAR THAT IT WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS GIVING TACIT APPROVAL TO THE RACIST VORSTER REGIME.

"HIS BIGGEST CHALLENGE ON THIS MISSION IS TO CONVINCE THE DOUBTING THOMASES OF BLACK AFRICA OF THE SINCERITY OF U.S.
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POLICY AGAINST APARTHEID.

"EVER SINCE DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN ATTACKED THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES EN MASSE IN THE U.N. AS RACIST BIGOTS BECAUSE OF THEIR VOTE AGAINST ZIONISM, THE THIRD WORLD BLOC HAS BEEN SMOULDERING WITH RESENTMENT. IT HASN'T HELPED THAT THEIR HATED ENEMY, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER OF SOUTH AFRICA, PAID A STATE VISIT TO ISRAEL RECENTLY AND WAS WARMLY RECEIVED THERE.

"U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA BELOW THE SAHARA HAS BEEN REGARDED AS SOMETHING LESS THAN BENIGN NEGLECT. TO MOST OF THE INDEPENDENT LEADERS THERE IT IS VEILED CONTEMPT. AID FOR THIS AREA IS BUT A TRICKLE COMPARED TO THE OUTFLOW TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

"BUT NOW, THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS SO POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR KISSINGER TO ESTABLISH A BEACHHEAD IN DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVES HERE. RUSSIAN INFLUENCE LOOMS POWERFULLY AND THERE ARE A REPORTED 15,000 CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA, STATIONED AT THE READY TO LEAD THE ARMED INTERVENTION IN RHODESIA AND EVENTUALLY SOUTH AFRICA.

"SMARTEST OF ALL THE TOTALITARIAN STATES WHOSE PRESENCE IS HERE IS THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA WHICH HAS BEEN IN TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA FOR NEARLY 7 YEARS BUILDING A RAILROAD BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL JUST HOW MANY CHINESE ARE HERE, SINCE THEY HAVE A WAY OF FADING INTO THE LANDSCAPE, BUT IT IS SAFE TO GUESS THAT THEY ARE IN THE THOUSANDS.

"LAST WEEK, THE SECRETARY MET WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE BLACK CAUCUS FOR ONE HOUR. IN A LETTER DELIVERED TO HIM ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE CAUCUS, IT SAID: 'THE PERCEPTION OF AFRICA AND RELATIVE INACCESSIBILITY TO THE AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON, EXCEPT WHEN THERE IS A PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED, HAS CREATED SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE TIMING AND SUBSTANCE OF YOUR VISIT, PARTICULARLY DURING THIS ELECTION YEAR.'

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"THE CAUCUS IS PARTICULARLY EXERCISED ABOUT THE SO-CALLED 'ZAP' POLICY, WHEREBY THE U.S. WOULD DELAY OR END FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHOSE VOTES ARE NOT CONSISTENT WITH THOSE OF THE U.S. IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. KISSINGER WAS URGED TO END THIS FORTHWITH.

"WHEN HE ARRIVES IN KENYA, KISSINGER WILL BE DIRECTLY WITHIN THE SPHERE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, A LOOSE ECONOMIC AND TRADE ARRANGEMENT WITH KENYA, UGANDA AND TANZANIA FORMING A PARTNERSHIP. WHILE POINTEDLY IGNORING UGANDA'S FLAMBOYANT PRESIDENT IDI AMIN 'DADA,' IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE MOST OBSERVERS IF BIG DADDY SHOULD SUDDENLY SHOW UP IN NAIROBI. HE DOES HAVE FREE ACCESS TO COME IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY. AMIN, THE UNPREDICTABLE, IS AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE U.S. BECAUSE OF HIS UNGUARDED COMMENTS AND REPORTS OF HIS RUTHLESS METHODS IN HIS COUNTRY. HE SCARCELY LETS IT BOTHER HIM, HOWEVER.

"KISSINGER WILL BE MEETING WITH SOME OF THE SMARTEST OF THE LEADERS OF INDEPENDENT AFRICA, NAMELY MZEE JOMO KENYATTA, THE LEGENDARY 'BURNING SPEAR,' THE AUSTERE JULIUS NYERERE OF TANZANIA WHO HAS JUST EMBARKED HIS COUNTRY ON A SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN, AND THE EMOTIONAL DR. KENNETH KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA. IT WILL PROBABLY BE THE OCCASION FOR THE ASSEMBLING OF ALL THE NATIONALIST LEADERS WE HAVE BEEN READING ABOUT, AMONG THEM JOSHUA NKOMO AND BISHOP ABEL MUZORERWA OF RHODESIA, THE CHARISMATIC SAMORA MACHEL AND THE ANGOLAN LEADERS WHO ARE PRESSING FOR U.S. RECOGNITION.

"THIS TRIP IS NOT ONLY NECESSARY, IT IS IMPERATIVE; AND WE WILL BE DOING OUR BEST TO GIVE AN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS SUMMARIES, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE103296
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/PRS:RWEISS:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760163-0510
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604115/baaaeotc.tel
Line Count: 266
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <24 JAN 2005 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVELLING PRESS REPORTAGE, MORNING, THURSDAY,
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006